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LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you, annexed hereto, the text of a statement made by Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, on 10 June 1999 concerning the suspension of the bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

Statement by Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, concerning the suspension of the bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Today NATO took the decision to suspend the air strikes against Yugoslavia. I regard this as a first step in the right direction. From the beginning of the aggression against Yugoslavia on 24 March 1999, I condemned the military actions and demanded that they be halted immediately.

Russia participated actively in the negotiating process for a settlement of the Yugoslav crisis; persistently and consistently, this tragedy was brought to an end, the bombing was halted. They were turned around by means of suffering and hardship for all the peoples of Yugoslavia.

As before, we see the main task as being a complete halt to the missile and bombing strikes on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). A pause is good, but not sufficient. There is an urgent need to revive the process leading to a political settlement with full observance of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, to join forces for the economic recovery of the region and, first and foremost, the FRY itself.

I have given instructions to the Russian diplomatic corps to pursue even more vigorous efforts to bring the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council into effect with a view to resolving the Kosovo question and establishing a firm peace and stability in the Balkans.